

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P 182150Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5985

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: GOP DECLARES A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN AREQUIPA

REF: LIMA 5594

1. FORTY-EIGHT HOUR GENERAL STRIKE DECLARED IN AREQUIPA JULY 17 LED TO DISORDERS, CLASHES BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS, AND FINALLY DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY SUSPENDING CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES FOR AREQUIPA DEPARTMENT. PUBLIC TRANSPORT HALTED FOR TIME DUE TO STONING OF BUSES SHOP AND BANK WINDOWS WERESMASHERD. NO REPORTS OF LOOTING OR GENERAL MOB VIOLENCE SIMILAR TO FEBRUARY 5 DISTURBANCES IN LIMA. ESSENTIAL SERVICES (WATER, TELEPHONE, ELECTRICITY, HOSPITALS) REMAINED NORMAL THROUGHOUT AND ORDER RESTORED BY EVENING JULY 17. NO LABOR LEADERS WERE ARRESTED THOUGH MOST LATER RELEASED. RAILWAY WORKERS SUBSEQUENTLY ENDED THEIR STRIKE AS DID TAXI, TRANSPORT AND BANK WORKERS. AREQUIPA FEDERATION OF WORKERS (CGTP) CONTINUED ITS PROTEST STRIKE BUT TERMED POSITIVE RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP.

2. STATE OF EMERGENCY SUSPENDING CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES FOR 30 DAYS IN AREQUIPA DEPARTMENT DECLARES THAT SOME AREQUIPA LABOR ORGANIZATIONS "HAVE MADE ECONOMIC DEMANDS WHICH ARE IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT TO SATISFY FOR THEY WOULD SUBJECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT TO UNRESOLVABLE ECONOMIC CRISES.THE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTED

TO REACH A JUST SOLUTION TO REASONABLE DEMANDS. . . BY SENDING A HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION. IN SPITE OF THIS EFFORT, COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL GROUPS CALLED A STRIKE WHICH LED TO PROVOCATIONS BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS AND DISORDERS."

3. COMMENT: AREQUIPA HAS ALWAYS BEEN CENTER FOR UNREST AND SITUATION RECALLS 1973 GENERAL STRIKE WHICH RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE VIOLENCE. CURRENT LABOR INSTABILITY RELATES DIRECTLY TO DISSATISFACTION WITH JUNE 30 ECONOMIC MEASURES AS WELL AS INCREASING MILITANCE OF COMMUNIST CGTP TRADE UNION. THE CGTP-CONTROLLED AREQUIPA FEDERATION OF WORKERS (FDTA) DEMANDED INCREASES GREATER THAN THE 400 SOL PER MONTH NATIONWIDE INCREASE DECLARED JUNE 30. UNION ALSO DEMANDED THAT NEWSPAPER CORREO BE HANDED OVER TO WORKERS (CORREO TO BE TRANSFERRED TO PROFESSIONAL SECTOR), THAT WORKERS RECEIVE ACROSS-THE-BOARD WAGE INCREASES OF 100 SOLES PER DAY, AND THAT JUNE 30 DECREE LIMITING WAGE INCREASES BE REVOKED.

4. HIGH LEGAL GOP COMMISSION (COMPOSED OF SINAMOS CHIEF AND MINISTERS OF LABOR, ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT) FLEW TO AREQUIPA JULY 16 AND RETURNED WITH WORD THAT STRIKE HAD BEEN AVOIDED. COMMISSION APPARENTLY MADE CONSIDERABLE CONCESSIONS -- ROLL BACK OF BUS FARE INCREASE (REFTTEL) FOR AREQUIPA ALONE AND PROMISE OF NEW MINIMUM WAGE LEVELS FOR QREQUIPA -- WHICH WOULD SURELY HAVE RAISED SIMILAR EXPECTATIONS ELSEWHERE. EFFECT OF STRIKE LEADING TO STATE OF EMERGENCY MAY NOT HAVE DAMAGED UNION LEVERAGE IN AREQUIPA AND CONSIDERABLE GOP CONCESSIONS PROBABLY GOING BEYOND THOSE OF JULY 16 ARE EXPECTED.

5. ALTHOUGH LEFTIST DAILY EXPRESO BLAMED DISTURBANCES ON APRA COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES, IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT GOP DECREE DECLARED THAT "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL GROUPS CALLED UNJUST STRIKE." THOSE GROUPS WERE CGTP UNION LEADERS SUPPORTED BY UNIONS AFFILIATED TO GOVERNMENT CTRP TRADE UNION. APRISTA CTP APPARENTLY NOT INVOLVED.

6. AREQUIPA NOW CALM, RAILWAY AND TRANSPORT STRIKE SUSPENDED, AND TALKS BETWEEN UNION AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES PROCEEDING. BUT WORKER DISSATISFACTION AND ECONOMIC PROBLEM NOT RESOLVED AND DISCONTENT LIKELY TO SPREAD.  
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## Message Attributes

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